

Harvard's Copey

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA
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Copey of Harvard, by J. Donald Adams, Houghton Mifflin
'60. 306 pp.

This biography of Charles Townsend Copey, from 1893 to 1928 the redoubtable and beloved Copey of Harvard's English 12, leaves an impression of satisfaction and of pity. Maine boys who took to the sea came earlier to fame and final acclaim. This Maine boy, with outpulsing strength, but armed by a native granite determination and his heritage of proud New England names, found that he could teach as masters teach, and won fame that way.

This beloved man, who early had his own alumni association, calling him yearly to New York for a literary evening (himself the speaker) at the Harvard Club, can yet stir pity. It was difficult for him to use pen or pencil and yet he could not dictate the thoughts that must be perfectly molded.

He was not, then, a "productive scholar" like his colleague Kittredge; he remained seven teen years an instructor; when he had passed the steps of assistant professor and professor and was allotted the Boylston Chair of Rhetoric, he had but three years to go before retirement.

He thought himself ugly; he thought his appearance frightened children — all because he was little and moved with a puppet-like rigidity and wore his hats at a fearsome horizontal.

Reading aloud was his great gift, his teaching secret. His voice was flawless, and he sur-rendered himself wholly to what he read — he was a finished actor standing still. Readings were the core of his university classes and of his private lectures. And the student too must read aloud; must appear every two weeks at Holywell with 1000 words of his own composition and 600 words of a foreign tongue.

The student read aloud, while Copey snorted or snored or moaned, or more rarely smiled — and he was obliged to write Copey's criticisms on his own paper. T. S. Eliot, for example, had to put down "A mouth-filling sentence" and things far worse.

Copey made many boys so angry that they went out and became good writers. Copey loved them; he urged hundreds of them into World War I and made them promise to write. They wrote him not only all their troubles, but accounts of the war in English 12 style. He had two volumes of them printed.

Our American scene is still full of Copey's boys — Father John La Farge is one — and this biography makes possible a renewal of his influence. Learning-to-write and learning-to-grow-up dovetailed in his teaching.



Medieval Mystery Plays On TV

NEW YORK — (RNS) — A series of medieval mystery or miracle plays telling the story of mankind from The Creation to the Last Judgment are being presented in four Sunday programs throughout the month of June on the CBS Television Network. Entitled "The Coventry Mystery Cycle," the plays were adapted for television by Father John J. Walsh, S.J., head of the drama department at Marquette (Wis.) University. At left is Mariena Mustik, a Marquette student, who portrays an angel in the first play. At right other Marquette University Players

surround Robert Meaudry, characterizing Michael the Archangel, in another scene from the first play. The Coventry mystery plays were first staged in the cathedral town of Coventry, England, 500 years ago. Written by unknown playwrights, they were performed by members of craft guilds as a means of expressing their faith. CBS is presenting them under the program listing of "Look Up and Live" in cooperation with The National Council of Catholic Men.

Eichmann Trial Told To Pope

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII was given a report on the Adolf Eichmann trial by Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Michael A. Musmanno, who had a 15-minute private audience with the pontiff.

"I simply told the Pope," the judge said afterwards, "about evidence which was presented while I was at the trial, testimony which revealed how the Catholic Church had intervened on countless occasions on behalf of the persecuted Jews."

Justice Musmanno, who lives in Stowe Township, Pa., recently testified at the Jerusalem trial. He was a judge at the Nuremberg trial of 23 members of the German Einsatzgruppen, a unit of the Nazi S.S. (elite guard), charged with killing Jews.

Americanism School Topic

Tallahassee — (RNS) — Gov. Farris Bryant of Florida has signed into law a bill requiring Florida high schools to teach a course in "Americanism versus Communism."

The new law provides that all public high schools offer a six-week, 30-hour course contrasting the merits of American constitutional government with the evils of Communism, starting with the September, 1962, term.

Reds Open Trial Against Priests

Vienna — (RNS) — Budapest Radio announced the opening of a trial in which ten Catholic priests are charged with "anti-State" activities.

The announcement stated that the "chief defendant" was Father Geza Havas.

Nine priests, a former Army captain and a former countess were arrested February 7 and charged with plotting against the Communist regime. Father Havas was not one of the nine priests named at that time; consequently it is believed the trial includes ten members of the Roman Catholic clergy as defendants.

In February, the Hungarian government charged the priests, the ex-army officer and the former countess as being "leaders of an anti-State organization." The Vatican Radio said the arrests suggested the "re-opening and intensification of the struggle against the Church at the request of Moscow."

THE PRIESTS were then identified as Fathers Odon Barlas and Gyorgy Ronal-Detre, both Cistercians, the former from Pecs and the latter from Szekesfehervar; Father Odon Lenard, of the Piarist Order; Father Istvan Tabody, Laszlo Kiss, Gyorgy Decsi and Laszlo Ikvai, all residents of Budapest; Father Gyorgy Lolley of Dunabogdany, and Father Ferenc Csonka of Pecs.

Father Ikvai had been known formerly as one of the top leaders of Catholic youth work in Hungary. Father Lenard was secretary general of Hungarian Catholic Action before the suppression of this organization by Communist authorities.

Radio Budapest in February said four of the priests — Fathers Lenard, Tabody, Ikvai and Lolley — had "criminal records." It said Father Csonka also was charged with "indecent behavior in connection with juveniles."

According to the Communist regime, the leader of the alleged plot was Silvester Koenig, a tank captain in World War II. The woman arrested was Maria Bolca-Zichy, the former Countess Domonkos Zichy, a member of an old Hungarian noble family.

The charges were given in the most general of terms, with no specifics ever announced.

Catholic sources in Hungary said a "staged" trial of the defendants might be held to discredit the hierarchy in Hungary. They said this was indicated by the fact that the official announcement of the arrests made a point of claiming that some of the arrested priests had criminal records and that one was charged with perversion.

Military Pilgrimage

Loures — (RNS) — Some 40,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen from 20 countries, including the U.S., converged on Lourdes to participate in the fourth international military pilgrimage to the famed Marian shrine.

About 1,000 tents have been erected to accommodate the servicemen who will include, for the first time, a delegation from the Indian army.

Two To Go

Maryknoll — An annual check of Maryknoll personnel statistics reveals that 48 of the 50 States have contributed a priest, brother or seminarian to the society.

Only Alaska and Wyoming are missing from the roster. The State of New York leads all others with 247 Maryknollers, while 158 claim the State of Massachusetts; 63 list Pennsylvania; 47 are from California and 40 from Ohio.

The survey records that Maryknollers come from 26 Archdioceses and 93 dioceses with the "B or O" of Churches," Brooklyn, far in front with 96 Maryknollers.

Kolping Head To Retire

Cologne — (RNS) — Mgr. Bernard Ridder announced here that he will resign June 30, his 65th birthday, as international president of the Kolping Society, a Roman Catholic workingmen's movement which has as its aim the education of young men to be good Christians, competent craftsmen and responsible citizens.

The Cologne priest, prohibited from preaching during the Hitler regime because of his opposition to Nazism, has been president of the society since 1948. He said his retirement was prompted by poor health. His successor will be elected at a meeting of the movement's "family council" — 41 clergymen and laymen of 8 countries — here in early July.

Parents Join Missioner

Alexishafen (NG) — The parents of Father Michael Morrison, S.V.D., have joined him as lay helpers at his Bundl mission in the Bismarck mountains. The parents are former residents of Australia.

Mrs. Morrison, a retired school teacher, plans to teach in the 235-pupil elementary school. Mr. Morrison, a retired railroad worker, will take charge of the mission's crops.

Vatican Ponders Position

Vatican City — (RNS) — Valerian Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, was expected during his visit to the Vatican here to discuss the attitude Indian Catholics should adopt toward the Third Assembly of the World Council of Protestant Churches which is to be held in New Delhi late this year.

Prior to boarding a ship for Italy, India's ranking prelate wrote in an article published in The Examiner, a Bombay Catholic publication, that one of his most important engagements in the Holy See would be with Augustin Cardinal Bea, head of the Secretariat for the Promotion of Christian Unity. The Secretariat was established by Pope John XXIII in 1959 to prepare for the forthcoming Second Vatican Council.

CARDINAL GRACIAS noted that two Indian prelates, Archbishops Vivian A. Dyer of Calcutta and Gregorios B. Varghese Thangalathil of Trivandrum, jointly head an ecumenical subsection of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India. He said they are charged with developing informal discussions with non-Catholic Christians in India, subject to approval of the Holy See.

The Bombay prelate said Catholic theologians in many countries have become more acutely aware of deficiencies in their approach to Non-Catholic

Christians. He added that this change of thought could be attributed to the examples of recent pontiffs, notably Pope Pius XII and Pope John.

"Catholic theologians, with some notable exceptions, have as a rule been very negative and polemical in their approach, especially to Protestants," he wrote.

Cardinal Gracias observed that many Protestants have an extremely inadequate comprehension of Catholic teaching. He added that Protestant theologians, as a rule, are astonished when they receive sincere and unargumentative answers from Catholic theologians on religious questions.

The cardinal attributed this general characterization of Protestants to an "aloof" attitude on the part of Catholics in the past. He said many Indian priests feel that this position causes a loss of "opportunities for a fruitful apostolate."

In relation to the Indian Catholic attitude to the World Council of Churches Assembly, the prelate said he was carrying to Rome general suggestions developed at a recent meeting of the ecumenical subsection under the chairmanship of Archbishop Dyer. He said the suggestions, upon

which he did not elaborate, would be given to Cardinal Bea for consideration.

Cardinal Gracias also was expected to take part in Vatican discussions concerning the Council, which will be held in the Holy See probably late next year. He is a member of the Central Committee set up by Pope John to prepare the Council's agenda.

The Indian priest's trip also was made in connection with planning for the 38th International Eucharistic Congress to be held in his See in 1964.

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